



## ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

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EPA Region 5 Records Ctr.



365719

February 22, 2008

**CERTIFIED MAIL:**  
**RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED**  
**PROMPT REPLY NECESSARY**

7007 2560 0003 2093 2688

Moen Incorporated  
Attn: Richard E. Posey, President and CEO  
25300 Al Moen Dr.  
North Olmsted, OH 44070

Re: Request for Information Pursuant to Section 4(e) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, (Act, 415 Illinois Compiled Statutes (ILCS) 5/4(e)) and Section 104(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, (CERCLA or Superfund, 42 United States Code (U.S.C.) § 9601, et seq.).

Site: 1198010003 - Madison County  
Chemetco Site  
ILD 048 843 809  
Hartford/Madison County  
Superfund/Technical Reports

**RELEASABLE**

**FEB 25 2008**

**REVIEWER MD**

This letter seeks your cooperation in providing information and documents relating to the contamination present at the Chemetco Site owned and formerly operated by Chemetco, Inc. in Hartford, Illinois (Site or Chemetco Site). This site is contaminated with high levels of hazardous substances which may present a threat to human health or the environment.

We encourage you to give this matter your immediate attention and request that you provide a complete and truthful response to this Information Request and attached questions (Attachment B) within 30 days of your receipt of this letter.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) is investigating the release or threat of release of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants at the Site. Illinois EPA is seeking to obtain information concerning the generation, storage, treatment, transportation, and methods used to dispose of such substances that have been, or threaten to be, released from the Site. Illinois EPA will study the effects of these substances on the environment and public health. In addition, Illinois EPA will identify activities, materials, and parties that contributed to

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ELGIN - 595 South State, Elgin, IL 60123 - (847) 608-3131 • PEORIA - 5415 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 - (309) 693-5463  
BUREAU OF LAND - PEORIA - 7620 N. University St., Peoria, IL 61614 - (309) 693-5462 • CHAMPAIGN - 2125 South First Street, Champaign, IL 61820 - (217) 278-5800  
SPRINGFIELD - 4300 S. Sixth Street Rd., Springfield, IL 62706 - (217) 786-6892 • COLLINGSVILLE - 2009 Main Street, Collinsville, IL 62234 - (618) 346-5120  
MARION - 2309 W. Main St., Suite 116, Marion, IL 62959 - (618) 993-7200

1198010003 -- Madison County  
Chemetco Site CERCLA 104(e) Information Request  
ILD 048843809  
Page 2 of 4

contamination at the Site. Illinois EPA believes you might have information that may assist in this investigation of the Site.

Illinois EPA has determined that the decades-long practice at the Chemetco Site of receiving smelting and processing scrap metals and other materials impacted the surrounding soils, groundwater, and surface water and created a hazard for area residents and the environment. The Chemetco facility was built in 1969 and began operations in 1970. The site ceased operations on October 31, 2001 and filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy on November 13, 2001.

During an investigation by Illinois EPA, it was revealed that the sediment samples collected from the tributary of Long Lake and in Long Lake exceed both ecotoxicological benchmarks and meet observed release criteria according to the Hazard Ranking System for cadmium, copper, lead and nickel. These are all metals which are present at significantly elevated levels in the zinc oxide slurry which Chemetco discharged into Long Lake. In December of 2001, Illinois EPA sampled seven areas around the site where stormwater collects. All seven samples exceeded the effluent standards for lead and several of the samples also exceeded the effluent standards for cadmium, copper, zinc and oil. There exists the potential for wind dispersion of hazardous material from the uncontained slag and zinc oxide piles. In 1998, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) sampled the fields adjacent to the slag pile and found high levels of lead and cadmium compared to background levels.

In 1988 and 2000, Illinois EPA found levels of dioxins in the east/west cooling water canal above background. In 1981 the Perched Shallow Aquifer beneath Chemetco contained elevated metals concentration and lowered pH levels. Illinois EPA collected groundwater samples in April, 1998, March, 2001 and May, 2002. During all three of these rounds of sampling, contaminant levels exceeded the 35 Illinois Administrative Code 620 Class I Groundwater Quality Standards. The May 2002 data for the Perched Shallow Aquifer exceeded standards for arsenic, boron, cadmium, copper, iron, manganese, nickel, selenium, and zinc. There were also detections of the organic compounds; cis-1,2-dichloroethylene, methyltertiarybutylether, 1,1,2-trichloroethylene, xylene, phenol, 2-chlorophenol, 2-methylphenol, 4-methylphenol, and 2,4,6-trichlorophenol. In the March, 2001 data the groundwater was found to have exceedences of boron, cadmium, copper, iron, lead, manganese, mercury, nickel, selenium, sulfate and zinc.

#### Description of Legal Authority

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980, as amended, 42 U.S.C. § 9601, *et seq.*, commonly referred to as "CERCLA" and "Superfund" and Section 22.2(f) of the Illinois Environmental Protection Act, 415 ILCS 5/22(f) gives the Illinois EPA the authority to, among other things: (1) assess contaminated sites, (2) determine the threats to human health and the environment posed by each site, and (3) clean up those sites in the order of the relative threats posed by each.

**1198010003 – Madison County**  
**Chemtco Site CERCLA 104(e) Information Request**  
**ILD 048843809**  
**Page 5 of 4**

**bcc: Mike Roubitchek**  
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**BOL File**  
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**Thomas J. Martin –USEPA, Associate Regional Counsel**